

Docket No.: 7747

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REMARKS

This in reply to the Office Action mailed on October 31, 2005 ("Office Action").

Claims 1-19 are currently pending.

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 7 and 12 are amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter which Applicant regards as his invention. Support for this amendment is found in the specification at pages 2, 16 and 17.

No new matter is added by this amendment.

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DISCUSSION**The Rejection of Claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph**

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In particular, the Examiner states:

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 7 and 12 are considered incomplete because it is essential that the instant method include steps for discharging a slurry of coal, potassium chloride or borax into the screen bowl centrifuge, adding the terpolymer inside the centrifuge in a low shear zone to allow solids to be flocculated without being torn apart by shear forces, and centrifuging the slurry to separate the flocculated solids from an effluent, to recover useful coal or potassium chloride from the slurry, in view of pages 2, 16, and 17 of the instant specification, respectively. Claims 2-6, 8-11 and 13-19 depend from the above claims.

Claims 1, 7 and 12 properly written to overcome the above 35 USC 112 rejection would be allowable.

Office Action at page 2.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 7 and 12 as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and respectfully asserts that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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